Allocation of finance to Sardar Sarover and Narmada Sagar Dams

2132. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have integrated approach to the Sardar Sarovar Dam and Narmada Sagar Dam in allocating finances to these two projects;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission have taken the views of the World Bank in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the details thereto; and

(d) what has been the final decision/recommendations in clearing these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The World Bank Group has committed a IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) loan of US $ 200 million plus IDA (International Development Association) credit of SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) 249.20 million for the Sardar Sarovar Project. Narmada Sagar project is in the pipeline for World Bank assistance and no decision has yet been taken on the quantum of financial assistance to be given by the Bank.

(d) Planning Commission has accorded investment clearance on 5.10.1988 to the Sardar Sarovar Project for its estimated cost of Rs. 6406 04 crores. As regards to Narmada Sagar Dam investment clearance is still to be accorded by the Planning Commission.

Purchase of defence equipment from foreign companies

2133. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a scheme to do away with the middlemen (Local agents) in purchase of defence equipment from foreign companies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) since when this scheme was introduced;

(d) whether any local agents were engaged in the purchase of M. 15 guns from M/s. Bofors of Sweden; and

(e) if so, what are their name?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) Consolidated instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, on the 31st January, 1989, which comprehensively lay down Government's policy regarding the role of Indian agents. The Ministry of Defence shall be shortly issuing supplementary Instructions.

(d) There has been no acquisition by Government of M-15 guns from M/s. Bofors of Sweden.

(e) Does not arise.

Explanation sought from Bofors regarding payments in Howitzer Gun deal

2134. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought explanation from M/s. Bofors Company on the basis of the information which appeared in the 'Hindu' recently;